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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 has been amended; claims 4 and 9 are cancelled; claim 2 is original, all other claims were previously presented. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

**Listing Of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A composition for well cementing comprising:
  - i. a pumpable slurry of cement,
  - ii. water and
  - iii. a material having residual water-absorption properties after the setting of the cement, so that said material is susceptible to swell in contact with underground water in case of failure of the cement matrix.

wherein the ~~super-absorbent polymer~~material is provided in a capsule that releases said material in response to exposure of the cement to at least one downhole parameter and is added to the slurry dry-blended with the cement.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said material is a super-absorbent polymer.
3. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 1, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is selected from the list consisting of polymethacrylate and polyacrylamide or a non-soluble acrylic polymers.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is added at a concentration between 0.05% and 3.2% by weight of cement.
6. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2 further comprising a salt.

7. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 6, wherein said salt is sodium chloride or calcium chloride.
8. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2, wherein the super-absorbent polymer is added under the form of particles ranging from 10 $\mu$ m to 1500 $\mu$ m.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 1, whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material when the cement matrix cracks.
11. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of dispersing agent, fluid loss control agent, set retarder, set accelerator and anti-foaming agent.
12. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2 whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material in response to exposure of the cement to at least one downhole parameter.
13. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2 whereby the material is provided in a capsule that releases the material when the cement matrix cracks.
14. (Previously presented) The cement composition of claim 2 further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of dispersing agent, fluid loss control agent, set retarder, set accelerator and anti-foaming agent.